

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of augmenting digital rights management, the method comprising:

associating a first field with an electronic property document, wherein the first field identifies a current owner of the electronic property document; and

associating a second field with the electronic property document, wherein the second field contains includes a list of information about previous ownership owners having an order according to a historical order of transfer of rights [[of]] to the electronic property between a plurality of previous owners document; and

wherein access control software allows access to the electronic property only upon verification that a user satisfies specified requirements for access, and wherein the specified requirements include the user being listed as the current owner in the first field.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the access control software restricts use of the electronic property to the person identified as the current owner.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising notifying the electronic property's manufacturer in case of property rights violations.

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

if ownership of the electronic property document is transferred from the current owner to a subsequent owner:

in the first field, replacing the current owner's name with the subsequent owner's name; and

in the second field, adding appending an entry with information about the subsequent owner, wherein the information about the subsequent owner includes a time period of ownership for the subsequent owner.

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 4, further comprising allowing access to the electronic property by the subsequent owner only after the current

owner has electronically signed an entry in the second field identifying the subsequent owner.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 4, further comprising storing the information associated with the ownership transfer in a backup server.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 4, further comprising sending notice of the transfer of ownership to the electronic property's manufacturer.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 4, wherein the subsequent owner inherits the same access privileges as the current owner.

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising: if use of the electronic property document is temporarily loaned by the current owner to a borrower:

associating a third field with the electronic property document, wherein the third field identifies the current borrower of the electronic property document and designates the duration of the time period of the loan; and

wherein access control software allows borrower access to the electronic property only during the duration of the loan period.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 9, wherein access control hardware restricts access to the electronic property to the person identified as borrower.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 9, wherein the current owner cannot access the electronic property during the duration of the loan period.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 9, further comprising storing the information about the loan in a backup server.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 9, wherein the current owner may simultaneously loan the electronic property to multiple borrowers.
14. (Original) The method according to claim 9, further comprising sending notice of the loan to the electronic property's manufacturer.
15. (Original) The method according to claim 9, wherein the borrower acquires a specified portion of the owner's access privileges.
16. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the property title is stored in the same file with the digital electronic property itself.
17. (Currently Amended) A computer program product in a computer readable medium for use in a data processing system, for augmenting digital rights management, the computer program product comprising:
instructions for associating a first field with an electronic property document, wherein the first field identifies a current owner of the electronic property document; and
instructions for associating a second field with the electronic property document, wherein the second field contains includes a list of information about previous ownership owners having an order according to a historical order of transfer of rights to [[of]] the electronic property between a plurality of previous owners document; and
wherein access control software allows access to the electronic property only upon verification that a user satisfies specified requirements for access, and wherein the specified requirements include the user being listed as the current owner in the first field.
18. (Original) The computer program product according to claim 17, wherein the access control software restricts use of the electronic property to the person identified as the current owner.

19. (Original) The computer program product according to claim 17, further comprising instructions for notifying the electronic property's manufacturer in case of property rights violations.

20. (Currently Amended) The computer program product according to claim 17, further comprising:

if ownership of the electronic document is transferred from the current owner to a subsequent owner:

instructions for replacing the current owner's name with the subsequent owner's name in the first field; and

instructions for adding appending an entry with information about the subsequent owner in the second field, wherein the information about the subsequent owner includes a time period of ownership for the subsequent owner.

21. (Currently Amended) The computer program product according to claim 20, further comprising instructions for allowing access to the electronic property by the subsequent owner only after the current owner has electronically signed an entry identifying the subsequent owner in the second field.

22. (Original) The computer program product according to claim 20, further comprising instructions for storing the information associated with the ownership transfer in a backup server.

23. (Original) The computer program product according to claim 20, further comprising instructions for sending notice of the transfer of ownership to the electronic property's manufacturer.

24. (Original) The computer program product according to claim 20, wherein the subsequent owner inherits the same access privileges as the current owner.

25. (Currently Amended) The computer program product according to claim 17, further comprising:
if use of the electronic property document is temporarily loaned by the current owner to a borrower:
instructions for associating a third field with the electronic property document, wherein the third field identifies the current borrower of the electronic property document and designates the duration of the time period of the loan; and
wherein access control software allows borrower access to the electronic property only during the duration of the loan period.

26. (Original) The computer program product according to claim 25, wherein access control hardware restricts access to the electronic property to the person identified as borrower.

27. (Original) The computer program product according to claim 25, wherein the current owner cannot access the electronic property during the duration of the loan period.

28. (Original) The computer program product according to claim 25, further comprising instructions for storing the information about the loan in a backup server.

29. (Original) The computer program product according to claim 25, wherein the current owner may simultaneously loan the electronic property to multiple borrowers.

30. (Original) The computer program product according to claim 25, further comprising instructions for sending notice of the loan to the electronic property's manufacturer.

31. (Original) The computer program product according to claim 25, wherein the borrower acquires a specified portion of the owner's access privileges.

32. (Currently Amended) The computer program product according to claim 17, wherein the property title is stored in the same file with the ~~digital~~ electronic property itself.

33. (Currently Amended) A system for augmenting digital rights management, the method comprising:

a first register which associates a first field with an electronic property document, wherein the first field identifies a current owner of the electronic document; and

a second register which associates a second field with the electronic property document, wherein the second field includes a list of contains information about previous ownership owners having an order according to a historical order of transfer of rights to [[of]] the electronic property between a plurality of previous owners document; and

wherein access control software allows access to the electronic property only upon verification that a user satisfies specified requirements for access, wherein the specified requirements include the user being the current owner in the first field.

34. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 33, further comprising:

if ownership of the electronic document is transferred from the current owner to a subsequent owner:

a first updating component which replaces the current owner's name with the subsequent owner's name in the first field; and

a second updating component which adds appends an entry with information about the subsequent owner in the second field, wherein the information about the subsequent owner includes a time period of ownership for the subsequent owner.

35. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 33, further comprising:

if use of the electronic document is temporarily loaned by the current owner to a borrower:

a third register which associates a third field with the electronic property document, wherein the third field identifies the current borrower of the electronic property document and designates the duration of the time period of the loan; and

wherein access control software allows borrower access to the electronic property only during the duration of the loan period.